

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Patent Application No. 09/593,647

Confirmation No. 7587

Applicant: LeRoy G. Hagenbuch

Filed: June 13, 2000

TC/AU: 2123

Examiner: Dwin Craig

Docket No.: 204559

Customer No.: 23460

Mail Stop Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

This application is a continuation-in-part of parent U.S. application 09/333,379 filed June 15, 1999. The '379 application is on the docket of Examiner Herng Der Day of Art Unit 2128. As of today's date, the '379 application has been amended on August 28, 2007 in response to a non-final Office action rejecting all of the pending claims 1-7, 9-26, 28-36, 38 and 52-87. In the amendment, all of the rejected independent claims have been either canceled or amended to include subject matter of dependent claims that were not rejected on prior art.

Copies of the Office action and the amendment are submitted herewith. The prior art of record in the '379 application is already of record in this application.

This application is also related to U.S. application no. 10/286,095, although there is no formal relationship under 35 U.S.C. §120. The '095 application matured into U.S. Patent No. 7,257,467 on August 14, 2007. A citation to this patent is listed on the enclosed Form PTO-1449.

Pursuant to 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98, the reference listed on the enclosed Form PTO-1449 and/or Substitute Form PTO-1449 ("Form 1449") is submitted for consideration by the Examiner in the examination of the above-identified patent application.

The full consideration of the reference in their entirety by the Examiner is respectfully requested and encouraged. Also, it is respectfully requested that the reference be entered into the record of the present application and that the Examiner initial the appropriate area on the enclosed Form 1449, thereby indicating the Examiner's consideration of the reference.

The submission of the reference listed on the Form 1449 is for the purpose of providing a complete record and is not a concession that the reference listed thereon is prior art to the invention claimed in the patent application. The right is expressly reserved to establish an invention date earlier than the above-identified filing date.

Further, the submission of the reference is not to be taken as a concession that any reference represents art that is relevant or analogous to the claimed invention. Accordingly, the right to argue that any reference is not properly within the scope of prior art relevant to an examination of the claims in the above-identified application is also expressly reserved.

The Information Disclosure Statement is being filed:

- ☐ **within** any one of the following time periods: (a) within three months of the filing date of a national application other than a continued prosecution application under 37 CFR 1.53(d); (b) within three months of the date of entry of the national stage as set forth in 37 CFR 1.491 of an international application; (c) before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits; or (d) before the mailing of a first Office Action after the filing of a request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114.
- ☐ **after** (a), (b), (c) or (d) above, but before the mailing date of a final action under 37 CFR 1.113, a Notice of Allowance under 37 CFR 1.311, or an action that otherwise closes prosecution in the application, and includes *one* of:
- ☐ the Statement under 37 CFR 1.97(e) (see "Statement under 37 CFR 1.97(e)" below).
- or —
- ☐ the fee of \$180 set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(p) (see "Fees" below).
- ☒ **after** the mailing date of a final action under 37 CFR 1.113 or a Notice of Allowance under 37 CFR 1.311, or an action that otherwise closes prosecution in the application, and on or before payment of the issue fee, and includes the Statement under 37 CFR 1.97(e) (see "Statement under 37 CFR 1.97(e)" below), and the fee of \$180 as set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(p) (see "Fees" below).
- ☐ **after** the mailing date of a Notice of Allowance under 37 CFR 1.311, and on or before payment of the issue fee, and **within** thirty days of receiving each item of information contained in the Information Disclosure Statement, and includes the Statement under 37 CFR 1.704(d) (see "Statement under 37 CFR 1.704(d)" below), and the fee of \$180 as set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(p) (see "Fees" below). NOTE: This is for original applications except applications for a design patent, filed on or after May 29, 2000, wherein a paper containing only an Information Disclosure Statement in compliance with 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98 is being filed.

#### Copies of the References

- ☐ Copies of all of the references listed on the enclosed Form 1449 are enclosed herewith.

- ☒ Copies of U.S. patents and patent applications that are listed on the accompanying Form 1449 are not enclosed herewith. Copies of other references identified on the accompanying Form 1449 are enclosed herewith.
- ☐ For each reference not in the English language, attached is an English translation, a concise explanation of relevance, an English-language equivalent/patent, an English-language abstract, or an English-language version of the search report or action by a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application indicating the degree of relevance found by the foreign office pursuant to 37 CFR 1.98(a)(3).
- ☐ A copy of the foreign search report is enclosed herewith.
- ☐ The references listed on the enclosed Form 1449 were previously identified in the parent application(s) of the present application, and copies of the references were furnished at that time. Accordingly, additional copies of the references are not submitted herewith, so as not to burden the file with duplicate copies of references. The Examiner is respectfully requested to carefully review the references in accordance with the requirements set out in the Manual of Patent Examining Procedure. In accordance with 37 CFR 1.98(d), the details of the parent application(s) relied upon for an earlier filing date under 35 USC 120 in which copies of the references were previously furnished are set out below:

U.S. APPLICATIONS		STATUS ( <i>check one</i> )		
U.S. APPLICATIONS	U.S. FILING DATE	PATENTED	PENDING	ABANDONED
1.				
2.				
3.				

**Statement under 37 CFR 1.97(e)**

- ☐ The **undersigned** hereby states that each item of information contained in the Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign patent application not more than three months prior to the filing of the Information Disclosure Statement.
- ☐ The **undersigned** hereby states that no item of information contained in the Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign patent application, and, to the knowledge of the undersigned after making reasonable inquiry, no item of information contained in the Information Disclosure Statement was known to any individual designated in 37 CFR 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of the Information Disclosure Statement.

**Statement under 37 CFR 1.704(d)**

- ☐ The **undersigned** hereby states that each item of information contained in the Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart application and that this communication was not received by any individual designated in 37 CFR 1.56(c) more than thirty days prior to the filing of the Information Disclosure Statement.

**Fees**

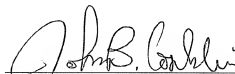
- ☐ **No fee** is owed by the applicant(s).  
☒ Charge Deposit Account No. 12-1216 in the amount of **\$180.00** (37 CFR 1.17(p)).  
(A duplicate copy of this communication is enclosed for that purpose, unless submitted via EFS-Web.)

**Authorization to Charge Additional Fees**

- ☒ If any additional fees are owed in connection with this communication, please charge Deposit Account No. 12-1216. (A duplicate copy of this communication is enclosed for that purpose, unless submitted via EFS-Web.)

**Instructions as to Overpayment**

- ☒ Credit Account No. 12-1216.  
☐ Refund



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Date: September 14, 2007

